LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

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18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a concentric speed reducer having a first end and a second end, with the first end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the motor assembly and the second end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the seal pedestal;

a first flange at the first end of the speed reducer;

a second flange at the second end of the speed reducer;

a cylindrical cover that has an inner surface that defines an inner diameter and that substantially surrounds the speed reducer and substantially extends from the first end of the speed reducer to the second end of the speed reducer;

a first elastomeric ring disposed in between the first flange and the inner surface of the cover to support the cover; and

a second elastomeric ring disposed in between the second flange and the inner surface of the cover to support the cover

wherein the first and second flanges and the cylindrical cover all remain stationary with respect to the seal pedestal.

35. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 34, wherein the first flange comprises a shoulder that supports the first elastomeric ring, having an outer diameter of the first flange being less than the inner diameter of the cover, and with the cover extending over the first flange.

36. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 34, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the cover, so that the cover is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the projection.

37. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 35, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the cover, so that the cover is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the projection.

38. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 34, wherein the cover is made from stainless steel.

39. (New) The drive assembly of claim 34, wherein the cover is substantially restrained axially and radially by the first and second elastomeric rings, without any direct touching contact between the cover and the first and second flanges

40. (New) The drive assembly of claim 34, wherein the first and second elastomeric rings each comprise rubber O-rings.

41. (New) The drive assembly of claim 40, wherein the O-rings have a substantially circular cross section.

42. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a concentric speed reducing means having a first end and a second end, with the first end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the motor assembly and the second end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the seal pedestal;

a first flange at the first end of the speed reducing means;

a second flange at the second end of the speed reducing means;

covering means for covering the speed reducing means, that has an inner surface that defines an inner diameter and substantially surrounds the speed reducing means and substantially

extends from the first end of the speed reducing means to the second end of the speed reducing means;

a first elastomeric sealing and supporting means disposed in between the first flange and in the inner surface of the covering means to support the covering means; and

a second elastomeric sealing and supporting means that is disposed in between the second flange and the inner surface of the second end of the covering means to support the covering means, and

wherein the first and second flanges and the cylindrical covers all remain stationary with respect to the seal pedestal.

43. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 42, wherein the first flange comprises a shoulder that supports the first elastomeric sealing and supporting means, having an outer diameter of the first flange being less than the inner diameter of the covering means, and with the covering means extending over the first flange.

44. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 42, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the covering means, so that the covering means is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the projection.

45. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 43, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter

of the covering means, so that the covering means is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the projection.

46. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 42, wherein the covering means is made from stainless steel.

47. (New) The drive assembly of claim 42, wherein the covering means is restrained substantially axially and radially by the elastomeric sealing and supporting means, without any direct touching contact between the covering means and the first and second flanges

48. (New) The drive assembly of claim 42, wherein the first and second elastomeric sealing and supporting means each comprise rubber O-rings.

49. (New) The drive assembly of claim 48, wherein the O-rings have a substantially circular cross section.

50. (New) A cover apparatus a mixer having a motor assembly, a seal pedestal, and a concentric speed reducer having a first end and a second end, with the first end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the motor assembly and the second end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the seal pedestal, the cover apparatus comprising:

a first flange at the first end of the speed reducer;

a second flange at the second end of the speed reducer;

a cylindrical cover that has an inner surface that defines an inner diameter and that substantially surrounds the speed reducer and substantially extends from the first end of the speed reducer to the second end of the speed reducer;

a first elastomeric ring disposed in between the first flange and the inner surface of the cover to support the cover; and

a second elastomeric ring that is disposed in between the second flange and the inner surface of the cover to support the cover,

wherein the first and second flanges and the cylindrical cover all remain stationary with respect to the seal pedestal.

51. (New) The cover apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the first flange comprises a shoulder that supports the first elastomeric ring, having an outer diameter of the flange being less than the inner diameter of the cover, and with the cover extending over the flange.

52. (New) The cover apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection of the flange having an outer diameter greater than the outside diameter of the cover, so that the cover is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the flange.

53. (New) The cover apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection of the flange having an outer diameter greater than the outside diameter of the cover, so that the cover is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the flange.

54. (New) The cover apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the cover is made from stainless steel.

55. (New) The cover apparatus of claim 50, wherein the cover is substantially restrained axially and radially by the first and second elastomeric rings, without any direct touching contact between the cover and the first and second flanges

56. (New) The drive assembly of claim 50, wherein the first and second elastomeric rings each comprise rubber O-rings.

57. (New) The drive assembly of claim 56, wherein the O-rings have a substantially circular cross section.

58. (New) A covering method for a mixer having a motor assembly, a seal pedestal, and a speed reducer having a first end and a second end, with the first end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the motor assembly and the second end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the seal pedestal, the method comprising:

providing a cylindrical cover that substantially surrounds the speed reducer and substantially extends from the first end of the speed reducer to the second end of the speed reducer;

disposing a first elastomeric ring between a first flange at the first end of the speed reducer, and the inner surface of the first end of the cover, to support the cover; and

disposing a second elastomeric ring between a second flange at the second end of the speed reducer, and the inner surface of the second end of the cover, to support the cover,

wherein the first and second flanges and the cylindrical covers all remain stationary with respect to the seal pedestal.

59. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the cover is made from stainless steel.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising restraining the cover axially and radially via the elastomeric rings, without any direct touching contact between the cover and the first and second flanges.

61. (New) The drive assembly of claim 58, wherein the first and second elastomeric rings each comprise rubber O-rings.

62. (New) The drive assembly of claim 61, wherein the O-rings have a substantially circular cross section.